



Sponsors

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
- **National Association of Soil Conservation Districts**
- **Wildlife Habitat Council**

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Most taken in Adams County, Iowa

Bringing Conservation...

From the Countryside
to Your Backyard

Tree Planting



- **On the farm:**
- Windbreaks and tree plantings slow the wind and provide shelter and food for wildlife.

Tree Planting



- **In the backyard:**
- Trees can be home to many different types of wildlife.
- Trees can reduce your heating and cooling costs, help clean the air, add beauty and color, provide shelter from the wind and the sun, and add value to your home.

Wildlife Habitat



- On the farm:
- Buffer strips along waterways, grass areas, wetland, and native prairie plantings are some of the practices used on the farm.

Wildlife Habitat

- In the backyard:



- Trees, shrubs, and other plants provide homes and food for wildlife. You may add birdhouses and feeders.



Pond

- **On the farm:**
- Ponds can help stop gully erosion and improve water quality.
- Ponds provide water for livestock, waterfowl, and fish.



Pond

- **In the backyard:**
- Ponds are for birds, butterflies, frogs, fish, and you and your family.

Wetland



- **On the farm:**
- Wetlands filter excess nutrients, chemicals, and sediment from runoff, keep ground water pure, hold back flood waters, provide habitat for migratory birds and wildlife, and add beauty to the landscape.

Wetland



- **In the backyard:**
- Wetlands filter excess nutrients, chemicals, and sediment, and provide habitat for a host of interesting creatures.

Composting



- **On the farm:**
- Composting is practiced in some poultry operations. The compost is used as fertilizer on the farms and for lawns and gardens.

Composting



- **In the backyard:**
- Composting turns household and lawn wastes into valuable fertilizer.

Mulching



- **On the farm:**
- Leaving the previous year's crop stubble on the soil surface is called conservation tillage. This practice helps keep wind from blowing soil particles and helps stop rain from washing soil away.

Mulching



- **In the backyard:**
- Mulching cools, protects, and enriches the soil.

Nutrient Management



- On the farm:
- Farmers sample soils for nutrient needs.

Nutrient Management



- **In the backyard:**
- Nutrients are essential for good plant growth, but overapplying nutrients is not good for plants or for the environment.
- Excess nutrients leach through the soil and end up in ground water, or run off into storm sewers and end up choking a lake or stream.



Terracing

- **On the farm:**
- Terraces catch runoff water, let the water soak into the ground, and deliver the excess safely to the bottom of a hillside.



Terracing

- **In the backyard:**
- Terracing makes flower and vegetable gardening possible on steep slopes.

Water Conservation



- **On the farm:**
- Ponds collect runoff water to be used for livestock.
- Drier areas of the country use drip irrigation to minimize the amount of water that evaporates.

Water Conservation



- In the backyard:
- Drip irrigation and other water conservation practices can save water and money.
- Recycle water from eavespouts to a storage barrel. Carry water in a bucket to water your garden.

Pest Management



- **On the farm:**
- When pesticides are necessary, farmers fill and clean tanks away from water sources, mix only necessary amounts, and apply only to land where problems exist.

Pest Management



- **In the backyard:**
- Regular monitoring of your lawn or garden is the best way to stay on top of potential plant health and pest problems.
- Frogs and fish eat undesirable insects such as mosquito larvae.

Backyard Conservation Goals

- Raise Awareness of good conservation work done by farmers
- Provide free information packet by calling 1-888-LANDCARE
- Encourage volunteerism
- Enhance one million backyards

A close-up photograph of a butterfly with black, white, and red markings on its wings, perched on the brown, textured center of a pink coneflower. The flower has long, thin pink petals. In the background, there are other pink flowers and a dense field of yellow wildflowers, all slightly out of focus. The overall scene is a vibrant garden setting.

1-888-LANDCARE

for free

Information Packet

Rick Sprague, NRCS District Conservationist, Corning will discuss using forage grasses, native grasses, and native flowers in your backyard. These hardy plants can serve as lawn and in landscape plantings. Native flowers and native grasses allowed to grow tall as ornamental grasses provide excellent food and shelter for insects, butterflies, and small animals. Add beauty and diversity to your backyard to enhance our environment and your enjoyment.

Together, we can make our world a better place to live--one yard at a time.